

## **Egremont Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Committee**

**Tuesday, January 11, 2022, 2:00 pm**

**Held via Zoom**

**In Attendance:** Bruce Bernstein, Donna Bersch, Will Brinker, Emily Eyre, Lucinda Fenn-Vermeulen, Joyce Frater, Fred Gordon, Juliette Haas (recording), Ed McCormick

**Also Attending:** Carrieanne Petrick, MVP Berkshire/Hilltown Regional Representative, Peg McDonough, Egremont ARPA Grant Coordinator

- 1) Juliette Haas, sitting in for Chairman Will Conklin, called the meeting to order of 2:02 pm and noted the meeting was being recorded to Zoom. Members of the committee were introduced.
- 2) **Community Resiliency Building (CRB) Workshops After Event Comments:**
  - Fred Gordon: the 37% rental occupancy figure should be corrected
  - Lucinda Fee-Vermeulen: felt workshops were productive, provided a first look at priorities, professionally run by our consultants at Weston & Sampson
  - Emily Eyre: wished more invited stakeholders attended. Committee may want to explore ways of drumming up more support for future community input (ie: telephone outreach by each member).
- 3) **MVP Planning Grant Timeline** Juliette shared project timeline. With the CRB Workshops completed, the remainder of January and February will be spent interviewing key stakeholders (Jim Noe of the Highway Dept, Will Brinker of the Egremont Water Department, Ned Baldwin, Egremont Building Inspector, others) for their input in chapters of the Hazard Mitigation Plan/ Climate Action Plan. Committee members requested more detailed information on what is needed for the scheduled March Community Input meeting. It was stressed by the committee that more input is needed from members of the business community as well as community's youth.
- 4) **Future Action Grants and Expression of Interest (EOI) Application** MVP Regional Representative Carrieanne Petrick referred the committee to the state's website of <https://resilientma.org/mvp/> which lists direct principals and scoring criteria for approved Action Grants. Carrieanne stated that she is available to answers Egremont's project questions on an individual basis until the state announces the RFR. After that, questions can only be answered publicly from the state portal. A community can submit multiple EOIs. EOIs are a less formal and less detailed project application which is reviewed and vetted by EEA providing a stronger future Action Grant application. The deadline for 2023 EOIs is fairly quick: January 21<sup>st</sup> for robust feedback and February 14<sup>th</sup> for less feedback. The committee felt Weston & Sampson may be able to assist in creating a project priority list from information collected from the surveys and from the CRB workshops and assist with an EOI application. Possible projects discussed by members present:
  - Study of invasives including but not limited to weeds and pests
  - Flood control measures on the Green River – debris clean up
  - Flood control and watershed protection of Karner Brook (source water of Egremont Water Department)
  - Farming diversity and soil protection

- Drought measures
- Dam assessment and corrective mitigation
- Improving outreach to handicapped and other vulnerable populations

Peg McDonogh suggested exploring more expensive projects (ie: culvert replacements projects can costs as much as \$600,000) as MVP funding can leverage community contribution.

Carrieanne also informed the committee of upcoming MVP webinars on January 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.

- 5) **Future meeting and action points** Because of the approaching deadline for the EOI application it was felt the committee should meet again soon. A tentative date of Tuesday January 18<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm was suggested. Juliette will reach out to Chairman Will Conklin and the consulting team at Weston & Sampson in hopes that they can attend. Fred offered to reach out to Elizabeth Keen at Indian Line Farm and Juliette offered to reach out to members of the Turner farming family. Meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm.

Juliette Haas  
Approved  
1/18/2022